



League of Women Voters®
Austin Area

Voter

www.lwvaustin.org 512.451.6710

March 2012

Volume 16 # 7

Calendar

Mon., Mar. 5, 6:30 - 9 pm, Board Meeting, Central Market Community Room, N. Lamar.

Tues., Mar. 6, 7-9 pm, North Unit Meeting, home of Judy Parken, 7917 West Rim Drive. Call for directions, 512-502-0278. "Texas Election Law and Voter ID."

Mon., Mar. 12, 1-3 pm, Central Unit Meeting, Old Quarry Library, 7051 Village Center Drive, off Far West between Post Office and HEB. "Texas Election Law and Voter ID."

Wed., Mar. 14, 7-9 pm, South Unit Meeting, South Austin Sr. Activity Center, 3911 Manchaca Rd. "Texas Election Law and Voter ID."

Sun., Mar. 18, 3 - 5 pm, General Meeting, Congregation Beth Israel, 3901 Shoal Creek Blvd. "Decoding Human Trafficking."

Fri., Apr. 13 - Sun., Apr. 15, LWVTX Convention, San Antonio.

Sun., Apr. 22, 2 - 4 pm, General Meeting, Trinity United Methodist Church. "Privatization of Government Services and Functions"

Apr. 23, 24, 25, Unit Meetings, Consensus, LWVUS study on "Privatization of Government Services and Functions."

Upcoming community events that may be of interest to League members are [listed here](#). You may submit your own events of interest by sending an email to info@lwvaa.org.

General Meeting: Decoding Human Trafficking

Sunday, March 18, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Congregation Beth Israel

Although most of us are aware that there is a world-wide egregious abridgement of human rights known as human trafficking, we are perhaps less aware of the scope of the problem in our own back yard - Travis County and Texas. At this meeting organized by LWVAA, four local experts will give an in-depth presentation of the problem and the solutions from the standpoint of their individual perspectives:

- **Laurie Cook Heffron**, Research Program Coordinator and Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), University of Texas at Austin's Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, will moderate the meeting and provide an overview of human trafficking locally, statewide, and nationally.
- **Deek Moore**, Detective, Austin Police Department, Human Trafficking Unit, will discuss law enforcement and criminal investigation of human trafficking.
- **Kathie West**, Victim/Witness Coordinator, U.S. Attorney's Office in Austin, Waco, and Midland, Texas, will discuss the criminal justice system and prosecution of human trafficking cases.
- **Judith Averill**, Clinical Director, Refugee Services of Texas and Director of Greenleaf Counseling, will discuss victims' services and survivors' needs.

Following the panel presentations, members of the audience will have an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the information and issues related to the presentations. This meeting is free and open to the public. Parking is available in the Beth Israel parking lot. ~**Blossom Zanger**, bl2za@aol.com.

March Unit Meetings:

Update on Texas Election Law and Voter ID Law

- Anita Privett

Anita Privett, Advocacy Vice-President of LWVTX and a member of our local League, will report to all three units on changes in Texas election law and the status of the voter ID law (passed in the recent legislative session and being challenged in the courts.)

Tues., Mar. 6, 7-9 pm, North Unit Meeting, home of Judy Parken, 7917 West Rim Drive. Call for directions, 512-502-0278.

Mon., Mar. 12, 1-3 pm, Central Unit Meeting, Old Quarry Library, 7051 Village Center Drive, off Far West between Post Office and HEB. **Bernard Ortiz de Montellano**, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology, Wayne State University will join Anita at the Monday LWV meeting. He will speak about the history of discrimination in Texas. He recently spoke for LWVTX on the Spanish language NPR related to a program on voting.

Wed., Mar. 14, 7-9 pm, South Unit Meeting, South Austin Sr. Activity Center, 3911 Manchaca Rd.
~**Anita Privett, anita.privett@gmail.com**

President's Letter - On Motivation

- Stewart Snider

By now, it's probably clear to most of you that I tend to act on my passions. If I or someone else sees an issue that offers a chance of making a difference and it's within the League's purview, I want to check it out. If someone comes to me with a new idea, I want to either help them develop it or join their effort. It's a testament to the solidity of this organization that any member can introduce something new and with persistence can often see it become a local or state LWV priority. One example of the League's openness to new ideas lies within this month's *Voter*. New member and UT graduate student Brigid Hall **has some ideas** about the League as the organization of choice for the Millennial Generation. I look forward to exchanging ideas with Brigid and her peers, and I see such an exchange as an opportunity for growth in every sense of that word.

Many of you have embraced the notion of expanding the reach of the Austin League. But I know many of you have concerns about our losing focus. You may wonder whether there's a limit to our reach, that, if exceeded, would affect our reputation for being thorough. While such concerns don't always occur to me, they do occur to others, and it should reassure you to know that our very collaborative Board is better at making decisions than any individual ever could be. This is a good time to remind you that any member is free to comment to me or any board member about something we're doing or not doing.

Speaking of the Board, we've had some turnover lately, and I need to fill you in. **Carolyn Baker, Terry Green, Lisa Harris, and Blossom Zanger** have stepped off for a variety of reasons. We are very grateful for their service, some of which goes back many years.

We are also grateful to the following members who are joining our board:

Jaci Collins at Membership Records.

Nancy Oelklaus at Program Planning.

Jacklyn Williams at Voters Service.

We also welcome **Adriana Cox**, who is heading up Development in an off-board position.

Still vacant is our Community Relations board position, which involves reaching out to media outlets and other public service organizations. If you have an interest in this topic, please contact me - without any risk of entrapment.

In general, if you've ever been curious about a leadership position within the League but weren't sure if you would find it rewarding, please consider this: success is measured in increments. A single effort to change public policy may barely make a dent, but a whole bunch of dents do indeed add up -- just ask any pre-1920 advocate of women's

suffrage. Also remember that while you're making dents, you're forming potential lifelong friendships. We probably don't do enough to foster intra-League community, yet it is the invisible force that keeps us going.

I'll close with a quote from Jacklyn Williams at her first board meeting: "You guys are FUN!"

~Stewart Snider, s2snider@gmail.com

Outreach: Youth Voter Registration Project

- *Dianne Wheeler*

The LWVAA is making good use of the \$1,000 grant from the LWVUS to register young voters in underserved areas. The effort, Youth Voter Registration Project: Empowering Voters of Tomorrow, has left its mark already in **38 classes in seven different high schools** in the Austin area: Crockett, Lanier, Garza Independence, Travis, Eastside Memorial, LBJ Liberal Arts Academy, and Akins High Schools.

By February 22 we had addressed 356 students, successfully registered 132 and given out an additional 122 forms to students who would be eligible to register later in 2012. We were pleased to find several students had already registered. We also have talked with several students eager to work at the polls and helped them with their application. During our presentations we talked about the need to register and vote, the role of the League, and the usefulness of the League's *Voters Guide*.

Thanks to a suggestion from Nan Clayton, we borrowed an **e-Slate** voting machine from Travis County Elections with a short dummy ballot installed. After our demonstration, students got to practice voting on the machine. One student did a write-in ballot for himself!

Some days we were at a school all day, seeing both government and economics classes; in one class period at Crockett we had three classes in the library all at the same time. The last week of February was especially busy with overlapping times at three different schools. We still have a few classes left at Travis scheduled for March 6.

The organization of all of those visits would not have been possible without the internet spreadsheet developed by **Lucia Mueller**, our intern for the grant project. Our volunteers were able to see the schedule and sign up with his or her availability. This is a tool we may want to use for future big projects involving a lot of people.

Thanks to all the League volunteers! Multiple school visits have been made by **Judy Parken, Anne Clark, Judy Clack, Anne Roussos, Sylvia White, Brigid Hall, Phyllis Portnoy, Jacklyn Williams, Carol Olewin, Sylvia Kauffman, Lucia Mueller, and Dianne Wheeler**. We also had a volunteer, Randi Schultz, from UT Votes, a nonpartisan organization that UT students, Lucia and Brigid, had contacted. (Please see **Brigid's article**, which immediately follows this one.) A final report on this project will be made in the April *Voter*.

~Dianne Wheeler, dwheeler@sbcglobal.net

A Millennial's Response to the League

~*Brigid Hall*

As a master's student (and an 80s baby) at the University of Texas School of Social Work, I have pushed myself to reach beyond the campus community to make connections with other groups. For a class assignment, and with the encouragement of my grandmother, an active member of her local League in upstate New York, I attended a LWVAA unit meeting back in October. I was originally drawn in by the wide range of issues the League studies, and the variety of presenters the League invites to educate attendees on those issues. I have since become a dues-paying member and attended a few more events.

In today's climate of extremist politics and regressive policies, civic participation is crucial to ensure the will of the people is present in the government that represents them. Recent popular uprisings, from the Occupy Movement to

the Arab Spring to the African Summer, demonstrate that the desire for a responsible and reflective government spans race, gender, class, and age. The decommissioning of the Holly Power Plant is an excellent local example of a diverse community banding together to make change. An entire community united to demand a healthier neighborhood, and Austin Energy was forced to take action. The dualistic nature of our political system divides people and makes inclusive dialogue extremely difficult. Organizations such as the League of Women Voters are essential to restoring participation and faith in our democracy.

As my relationship with the organization continues to grow, I am searching for ways to enlarge the community that associates with the League. The nonpartisan and informative structure of the League offers an inclusive environment that encourages participation from diverse individuals. To increase the diversity of participants, the League needs to increase their visibility in the community. As a proud new member, I plan on starting a campus branch of the League to share our organization with the university community. Gaining authorization to advertise on campus will provide opportunities to host voter registration drives, publicize meetings and generally increase our presence among a younger generation.

In addition, distributing a past issue of the *Voters Guide* while registering voters will give individuals a closer look at the League to see its truly nonpartisan nature. As Dianne Wheeler's high school voter registration drive moves forward, and as I organize similar events on campus, the *Voters Guide* will serve as a take-away piece to keep the League on people's minds. I want to speak out on behalf of the League to acquaint others with its structure and to extend invitations to our events. I am passionate about creating a healthier future, and I see transgenerational engagement as an important step toward this goal.

Stewart's call to action to the Millennials will not go unanswered. We have the energy, passion and desire to make positive changes to our political system, and the League has the experience of historical activism. A strong partnership will make our demands louder and more inclusive.

Please visit this blog on the League website, and leave your ideas of how we can build partnerships between the League and the UT community. I look forward to hearing how we can build a stronger, more age-inclusive, League.

State of the City Dinner, Speaker, and Auction

Thank you to everyone who attended the State of the City event on February 8 at the UT Club! We heard from **Linda Watson**, the President and CEO of Capital Metro. Ms. Watson discussed the status of the Cap Metro organization and its current challenges on budget and labor issues. She indicated that both are successfully being addressed. Ms. Watson also provided an overview of the current urban rail and public transportation needs and which are working best. She summarized future projects, including smart bus lines, to better serve the population in central Austin.

Both a silent and live auction were held that evening and contributed over **\$2,000 to the LVWAA Education Fund**. Thank you once again to everyone who participated and donated items to the auctions!

~**Phyllis Portnoy, Adriana Cox, Alison Dieter, Jaci Collins**

News Briefs

Privatization Study Update

Privatization is a movement to transfer government services, assets and functions to the private sector. The LWVUS is leading a national study on this topic, and our League has a member committee that is participating. Our study committee has continued to meet and discuss the research articles written by the LWVUS. We are arranging for speakers for our **General Meeting on April 22**. They will talk about Privatization in the city, the school district, and the state. Four summary articles will be sent to members during the month of March. Please read each article in preparation for our General Meeting and consensus meetings in April. (See Calendar for dates.) All complete LWVUS articles are on **these web pages**. Click on the link to each article, then scroll to the end of that

article to get to a link for a PDF of that article. ~Frances McIntyre, mcintyre.frances@gmail.com

AISD Communication Project

The League of Women Voters of the Austin Area believes that authentic community involvement is an essential part of how effective school districts make decisions. Our goal is for Austin Independent School District (AISD) students to receive an excellent education, and this requires widespread community support for the district. We are developing a plan that we believe will change the current public participation climate from reactive to participatory. We are including processes and practices that strengthen community relationships and the quality of education. We are in the planning process. Stay tuned. ~Nancy Oelklaus, nancy@headtoheart.com

Luv-Your-League Campaign

Every year at this time, the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area holds its fundraising campaign. This event, formerly known as the Phonathon, is our League's primary way of soliciting much-needed donations from our members and others in the community who support the efforts of our organization. This year, our fundraising event, which we are calling the Luv-Your-League Campaign, will begin in the middle of March. Keep an eye out for a letter to be sent to your mailing address detailing the financial goals associated with the campaign and how you can contribute. ~Ann Stalnaker, astalnaker@austin.rr.com; Adriana Cox, adrianacox@austin.rr.com

Two May Editions of the *Voters Guide*

It now looks like there will be two elections in Austin in the month of May: Austin City Council and Mayor on **May 12** and the Democratic and Republican Primaries on **May 29**. Our League will be publishing two editions of the *Voters Guide* in the month of May, one for each election. The *Austin American-Statesman* will insert the LWVAA *Voters Guide* in the Sunday paper, the day before Early Voting starts for each election. Early voting for the May 12 City elections will begin **April 30**. Early voting for the possible May 29 Primary elections "might" begin **May 14**. Each *Voters Guide* will also be available for download on our [League's website](#) a couple days prior to the start of each Early Voting period. ~Lenora Dubose, with Frances McIntyre and Jaci Collins

LWVTX Convention

The LWVTX Annual Biennial Convention will be held this year in nearby San Antonio from April 13 - 15. LWVAA member **Susan Morrison** has been nominated for a LWVTX Board position. Any LWVAA member may attend. Come support Susan, help select statewide studies for next year, and enjoy a stimulating weekend with your fellow Leaguers. [This link](#) has preliminary details. All members will receive an emailed update from the LWVTX.

National Sunshine Week

Sunshine Week, held the week of **James Madison's birthday (March 16)**, is a nationwide effort to open up dialogue on the importance of transparency in government and freedom of information. This year it will be held **March 11 - 17**. During this week, the League of Women Voters and other members of the Sunshine Week coalition encourage citizens to play an active role in promoting open government at all levels. Journalists, civic groups, libraries, schools, and others interested in the public's right to know have banded together to help promote this nonpartisan effort to enlighten and empower individuals to play an active role in their government at all levels, and to give them access to information that makes their lives better and their communities stronger.

~Betty Williamson, bettybettybetty@austin.rr.com

February Units: Family Planning

~Judy Parken and Wilda Campbell

Statement of LWVUS Position on Public Policy on Reproductive Choices, as Announced by the National Board, January 1983:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

All three units in February had the opportunity to hear Sarah Wheat, Interim Co-CEO of Planned Parenthood of the Texas Capital Region, and Wilda Campbell, a LWVAA member, who worked for USAID in family planning for over 30 years in India, Nepal, Pakistan, Indonesia, the Middle East, and Africa. USAID is the government agency that has provided U.S. economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for more than 40 years. Recent cuts by the Texas Legislature reduced the support of Planned Parenthood (PP) by two-thirds of the previous budget. In Texas many low-income women will lose access to essential health exams. For many women, their

only health care is provided by PP and may include clinical breast exams, Pap smears, blood pressure checks, and screening for diabetes. The typical patient is either working or in school, has given birth before, and has no insurance. The PP 7th Street Health Center provided 2,374 women free health exams and birth control last year. No abortions were performed there. Fortunately no PP centers will be closed this year in Austin, thanks to community support (donations). However, throughout Texas, 11 centers were closed because those communities do not have the same local financial support that Austin does. PP centers see men as well as women, testing for sexually transmitted diseases and HIV. PP does make referrals for safe and legal abortions; however this is only 3-5 % of their services and no abortions are covered by either state or federal taxpayer funds, as mandated by law. Drastic funding cuts will result in fewer women receiving family planning services and will lead to more unplanned pregnancies and likely more abortions. In turn, more unplanned pregnancies and deliveries will cost the taxpayer more. Questions about PP practices arose when the recent Komen Foundation's withdrawal of funds focused attention on PP policies, including mammograms. PP follows medical standards of care that do not call for mammograms for women under 40, unless a clinical exam necessitates it. The majority of PP patients range in age from 16-35. Referrals for mammograms are made on an individual basis if needed and these are costs had been covered by the Komen Foundation. The U. S. Government, through USAID, has financially supported Family Planning in at least 40 countries for many decades and still does. This funding had bipartisan support for many years. No funding goes for abortions. Different countries have a preferred method of contraception. For example, in India sterilization is favored. On a humorous note, Wilda told us some countries ordered larger sizes of condoms and some ordered smaller sizes. One time, the wrong size condoms were shipped, resulting in a delicate matter.

~**Judy Parken, japarken@aol.com; Wilda Campbell, wildacampbell@gmail.com**

Maxine's Musings - Quilting: An American Tradition

~*Maxine Barkan*

We are well aware of the risks women took to advocate for the right to vote. Not many know that before and during Civil War times, women in some northern states agreed to make quilts with patterns that were designed as road maps to safe houses. When notified that runaways were on route, quilts were hung on clotheslines in backyards for the runaways to find the safe houses. Quilts became a road guide for runaway slaves on their way to Canada. This was very risky for the women, who could be incarcerated if found out. An author has fictionalized this subject in her series on quilting. *Hidden in Plain View* by Jacqueline L. Tobin and Raymond G. Dobard describes the secret story of quilts and the Underground Railway.

Quilting has a long history in America. Quilts were made by sewing pieces of worn-out clothing, stuffed with cotton, and hand quilted to be warm in the winter. After long hours with daily household chores, women sewed after dinner with no more illumination than candles or kerosene lamps that provided dim lighting. Women were very creative designing the quilts to be attractive on the beds as well as utilitarian.

Quilting was brought to America from Europe, but many ethnic groups also developed distinctive designs. Amish quilts have dark, often black backgrounds with simple designs of bright colors in stark contrast. Americans of African descent design quilts that are very colorful. Usually, they are not geometrical but flow in many different shapes. They often do not have a central theme. Hawaiian quilts have a single colorful representation of a large native flower that is appliquéd on a light background. The quilts that most pioneer women made have a central theme and a name for the design, such as the Log Cabin with small oblong strips sewn in a squared pattern; the Drunken with a zigzag pattern; the Dresden Plate that resembles petals attached to a central circle at the inner end; or the Lone Star pattern, common in Texas, also called the Jerusalem Star. The star covers most of the quilt with many points radiating from the center with a variety of different colored fabrics. It is, I can assure you, difficult to execute.

The Smithsonian got into hot water a few years ago with nationwide quilters when they opened up the patterns of historical quilts to Asian countries to replicate and sell to the American market. American-treasured folklore was at stake, and the Smithsonian backed down, but the damage was done. Quilts you see marked imported are still selling.

There have been some who question whether quilts are an art form. I have a wall-hanging quilt, created by an Austinite, that is a work of art. Her designs have been used in the White House as Christmas tree ornaments. Purists would classify quilts as a craft, and to some extent they probably are. But they can be works of art by women who, with their handiwork and color sense, brought warmth and beauty to their cabins in the wilderness.

I am proud to carry on the tradition of quilting. It is now dominated by sewing machines. I'm not too sure that is progress!

Observer Corps: Travis County Commissioners Court

~ Karen Rankin and Joann Robison

January 24, 2012, Joann Robison

Travis County is reviewing a change in their tobacco policy to expand it to all forms of tobacco. They are also extending regulations to such Travis County property as work sites, parking garages, and even inside cars. A public hearing was held and staff will refine policy proposal and bring it back for consideration.

Ernst and Young are presenting a feasibility analysis for a new civil and family courthouse the county would like to build. Public-private partnerships (P3) of a variety of formats are being explored. The final report is expected March 20 with two or three options recommended. One option is likely to be some version of P3. This was explained in some detail. P3 is popular in such countries the UK, Australia, etc., in which a company designs, builds, finances, and provides an agreed amount of maintenance on a lease-to-own agreement. These agreements typically run about 25 years before the county has the option to accept ownership. It has the advantage of including the cost of maintenance from the beginning, rather than depending on future funding.

January 31, 2012, Karen Rankin

The court voted unanimously to approve revisions to Section 82 of the Travis County Code. These regulations establish water availability rules for new subdivisions. County officials from the Transportation and Natural Resources department worked for approximately two years with input from builders, developers, and other stakeholders to create regulations that have the goal of maximizing the use of available water as the county is developed.

County and city employees presented an update of the work being done on Communities Putting Prevention to Work. With a grant of over \$1 million dollars, healthy eating and smoking cessation programs are being implemented countywide.

An amendment to the Economic Development agreements with Hewlett-Packard was approved. The company is relocating employees to a facility located on a substandard road, creating an unanticipated expense to the county. The cost of improvements will be negotiated with Hewlett-Packard and other businesses on the road.

In an agreement with TXI, Travis County would acquire parkland and open space in the eastern portion of the county with the goal of buffering mining operations of the company from nearby subdivisions. Because Texas counties have very little authority to manage growth, TXI was granted permits over the objections of neighboring interests.

February 14, 2012, Karen Rankin

Representatives from Bazaarvoice, Inc. requested a resolution nominating that company as an Enterprise Zone program project. The court was concerned that the new company has very little diversity among their employees, and asked to see a plan to hire more minorities for the future. Following the company's return the next week with a plan for specific goals, the court expects to grant the resolution. The state's Enterprise Zone designation includes waiving a significant portion of the company's taxes.

Preliminary information on the county's projected budget was presented. Expectations are that the average tax bill

for homeowners will once again rise by 3%, which is approximately \$30 per year on the average homestead.

Maps portraying the projected Colorado River Corridor Plan were shown to the court. This plan, which will reserve as undeveloped land approximately 25% of the area covered in the plan, is being designed to coincide with Imagine Austin goals. The portion of the Colorado River encompassed is limited to Precincts 1 and 4.

~**Karen Rankin**, karenrankin@austin.rr.com; **Joann Robison**, jrobison@austin.rr.com

Membership

~*Judy Parken*

It was great to see so many League members and the public at the State of the City, as well as at the three unit meetings in February.

Welcome, New Members!

We cordially welcome eight new members to the Austin League: **Sandy Eitel, Eliza May, Barbara "Bee" Moorehead, Erica Surprenant, Guadalupe Sosa, Nancy Dittmar Stout and Max Stout, and Vickie Strong.** We are delighted you have joined us. As a member of the Austin League, you are also a member of the national (LWVUS) and state (LWVTX) leagues. See the links below for an abundance of educational information. Call me with your League questions anytime: 512-502-0278.

Thank You, Sustaining Members

Special thanks to this month's renewing sustaining members: **Eloise Harris-Teas, Margaret Gomez, Jane-Elizabeth Madison and Judd Rogers, Karen Rankin, and Pam Reed.** We are grateful for your additional financial support for our local League's activities.

Thank You, Renewing Members

Many thanks to the following who also renewed this month: **Mary Arnold, Mary Ann Baker, JoAnn and Edmund Farrell, Mary and Bill Finch, Anita Garcia, Louisa Hoberman, Yvonne Khouri, Susan Morrison and John King, Anita Privett, Dorothy Richter, Mary Ann Rivera, and Ann Stalnaker.** We depend on your support and appreciate your timely renewals.

New Membership, Renewal Dues Payment, Address Changes

Please send your name, address, phone number, email address, household member (if applicable), along with your dues payment and/or any changes to the LWVAA office, 1011 W. 31st, Austin, TX 78705. Checks may be made out to Austin League of Women Voters. Or you may instead [click here](#) to pay your annual dues online while providing all the above information. Of your regular dues, \$52 goes to the LWVTX and the LWVUS, and only \$8 is left to support our Austin League. **Paying at the sustaining level** greatly benefits the Austin League because the extra money stays in Austin and supports our local League's activities. In either case, the League is grateful for your support!

~**Judy Parken**, japarken@aol.com , 512-502-0278.

The League shall not support or oppose any political party or candidates. It may take action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest. The VOTER is partially funded by the League of Women Voters of Austin Area Education Fund.

Office Volunteer Needed

We need members who'd be willing to volunteer in the League office **one day a month for three hours** (11 am - 2 pm, 1011 W. 31st St. near the corner of N. Lamar). There's an opening now one **Thursday** a month. It is very important to the community that the League maintain this public presence. If you are interested in volunteering, call or email **Judy Clack, 512-731-0280, jbclack@yahoo.com**. Judy will provide training and is available by phone to answer questions during your shift. This is a great way to help the League and your community.

Honors and Memorials

To make a donation in honor of or in memory of a League member, click here for the form. Then mail with your donation to the LWVAA Office, 1011 W. 31st St., Austin, TX 78705.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of three former League members:

The Honorable Anne Cooper, Dec. 16, 2011, State Legislator, member of San Marcos League, who supported the League's position on the establishment of the Barton Springs Edwards Underground Water Conservation District.

Margret Hofmann, Feb. 12, 2012, LWVAA member, Austin City Council member, the "tree lady." She initiated Think Trees Week and lobbied for Austin's tree ordinance. The Margret Hofmann Oaks Park was dedicated in 2010 across the street from Austin City Hall.

The Honorable Mary Pearl Williams, Feb. 22, 2012, first woman judge in Travis County, former member of the Austin League. Judge Williams was often reelected to Travis county judgeships without Republican or Democratic opposition. She won national recognition for the "Best Court Administration Program of a Misdemeanor Docket" in 1980, from the National Association of Counties. **Memorial service** for former Judge Mary Pearl Williams will be at **2 p.m. Monday, March 5 at University United Methodist Church**.

Hearty thanks go out to **Janet Reed and Barbara Ruud** who have been active members of the Austin League for over 50 years. Both held the office of President of our League: Barbara from 1959 - 1961, and Janet from 1965 - 1967. Until very recently, both served as volunteers in the League office. Thank you, Janet and Barbara, for your decades of service to the Austin League!

Three Leaguers have had their editorials featured in the *Austin American-Statesman*: **Kathy Carvell, Frances McIntyre, and Mary Patrick**.

Contact Us

Stewart Snider

President

345-7047

Nancy Oelklaus

1st VP Program

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Carolyn Baker

2nd VP Comm Rels

249-7012

Judy Clack

3rd VP Organization

Voter Editor

731-0280

Betty Williamson

3rd VP Organization

Advocacy

474-2130

Anne Shelby Clark

Secretary

347-0594

Carol Olewin

Treasurer

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Judy Parken

Membership

502-0278

Lenora DuBose

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292-8201

Mescal Evler

Publicity

517-0088

Jaci Collins

Member Records

257-9636

Jacklyn Williams

Voter Service

452-5968

Randall's Donations

Randall's Good Neighbor Program gives the Austin League a percentage of sales from members who link the League to their "Remarkable" cards. Our account number is **465**.

Compass Bank Donates to LWVAA

Have you opened an account at BBVA Compass Bank in the last 12 months? If so, they will make a **\$50 contribution** to the Austin League of Women Voters. Just email your name (no account numbers) to our treasurer, Carol Olewin, c.olewin@gmail.com. Compass Bank also pays the League a small percentage for Internet and phone transactions. For information, contact Paul Sicotte at Compass Bank, 512-421-5741.

Charitable Giving

IRA Charitable Distributions

Persons aged 70½ or older can again enjoy tax savings by making charitable gifts directly from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to the LWV Education Fund. Contact Lauren Frank of LWVUS at 202-263-1355 or lfrank@lww.org for additional information.

Gift to League at All Three Levels!

By making a gift of cash or securities of \$5,000 or more to the League of Women Voters Education Fund Pooled Income Fund, you can receive an immediate income tax deduction for a portion of the gift's value and continue earning a quarterly return on the interest earned for life. You can name your local League, along with the LWVEF, to benefit from the residual funds when you're gone. Contact the LWVUS Development office at 202-263-1355 or plannedgiving@lww.org.